within the confines of decency were richly deserved by the young men who so far forgot their boasted "superiority." Something more forcible than epithets would have been appropriate. Yet these very superior young men, though they could descend to horseplay with a person from whom they would not take horseplay, could not brook even a verbal retort. A "nigger" had called the superior Saxon ugly names, and the nigger had to be whipped. So ten of them—ten brave Anglo-Saxons to one "nigger"—followed the "impudent" etc., "beast" etc., to the minstrel hall, and after the performance made their way to the stage, shouting: "Whip the nigger!" But this particular "nigger" hailed from Kansas, and he did what any other man similarly outraged would have done. Despite the odds of ten to one, he defended himself. As he made his defense with a revolver, and the valiant Anglo-Saxon ten responded with revolvers, several people came near getting killed. No one was killed, however, but the "nigger" had committed the unpardonable crime of shooting at a white man—even at ten white men, who were bravely bent on assaulting him. Accordingly the sheriff arrested the "nigger" troupe and put them all in jail. That made it easier to lynch the particular offender. And as the original oppressors, the real criminals, were not arrested, the possibilities of a successful lynching were to that extent enhanced. And it came off strictly according to programme. At midnight an unmasked, "determined" —determination on the part of 100 against 1 is a cheap quality—and highly respectable Anglo-Saxon mob, "forced" the jail, seized the "bad nigger," dragged him to a tree and hanged him. The object of this one-sided arrest having been thus accomplished, the rest of the troupe were released. If one or more superior Anglo-Saxons are not hanged for this wicked and cowardly murder, the state of Missouri will deserve the infamy which attaches in the minds of all fair men to communities that openly tolerate such despicable crimes.

The efforts of the speculative real estate interests of Colorado to secure the repeal by the legislature, now in special session, of the Bucklin tax amendment to the state constitution (p. 678), has come to sudden grief. In an able opinion, the attorney general of the state advises the legislature that it has no power to repeal amendment resolutions when once constitutionally proposed to the people. His position seems to be invincible. He argues that while legislation, strictly such, is at all times repealable, these resolutions are—

> not strictly speaking an exercise of ordinary legislative power. The method of proposing is laid down in the constitution, and is radically different from the method prescribed for ordinary legislation. The mere proposal to submit an amendment to the people is not a law. The proposal is a proposition merely, until approved and ratified by the votes of a majority of the electors of the state, cast at an election for representatives; and when so approved and ratified it constitutes—not a law, but a part of the constitution. The authorities that we have been able to find all hold that the proposal of constitutional amendments is not legislation in the sense of making law.

Elsewhere in his opinion, the attorney general explains:

> The legislature in proposing amendments acts in behalf of the people of the state under an expressed and independent power. The mode of its exercise is prescribed and must be observed, but the legislature is not required to look outside its power of attorney to ascertain its duty. That power having been exercised, it shall be the duty of the legislature to submit the proposed amendments to the people to be voted on. . . . . Since the constitution has given to the legislature merely the power to propose, and to the people the power to reject or ratify when the proposal has been made, further authority over the proposal has passed out of the hands of the legislature into the hands of the people.

Whether influenced by this opinion, or acting in accordance with its own wishes, the state senate has put an effectual quietus upon the movement for repeal. The bill to repeal the Bucklin amendment came up in that body on the 19th and was defeated by a vote of 24 to 9.

Since the agitation for the repeal of this measure has brought its merits to the attention of the entire state, the danger of defeating it by a conspiracy of silence, followed on the eve of election by a flood of misrepresentation, has been averted by the folly of the very plutocratic interests that fear the effects of the measure. It is therefore reasonably to be expected that after the election next fall Colorado will become the pioneer state in introducing into this country the system of home rule in local taxation which has produced such satisfactory results in New Zealand.

In a recent address, Judge Dunne, of Chicago, throws a brilliant white light upon the cause of insufficient municipal revenues. Having shown that the county, officered by Republicans, is financially as badly off as the city, officered by Democrats, from which he inferred that deficiency of funds is not due to mismanagement of finances, he described the escape of public service corporations from their just taxes, as disclosed by the teachers, and then exposed an enormous amount of real estate tax-dodging in the business center of the city. Dwelling on this class of tax dodging he said:

> I ascertained that the total real estate valuation placed upon the real estate in the First ward of the city of Chicago, being only one ward out of the 34, was $268,000,000 for the year 1900, while the Swift commission, which had appraised the same property in 1896, a year which was at the very climax of the dull times in this community, closely following the panic of 1893, and which was therefore a time of conservative estimates, placed it at $422,000,000, approximately.

Not content with that bare comparison, Judge Dunne went on to prove that even the Swift appraisement was below the true figure, as indicated by a recent purchase by Montgomery Ward & Co., the corner of Michigan avenue and Washington street, which had been appraised by the